

Life of
HEBER C. KIMBALL

AN APOSTLE

The Father and Founder of the British Mission



By
Orson F. Whitney



It is easy in the world to live after the world's opinion; it is easy in solitude to live after our own; but the great man is he who, in the midst of the crowd, keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of his character.—EMERSON.



BOOKCRAFT
Salt Lake City, Utah



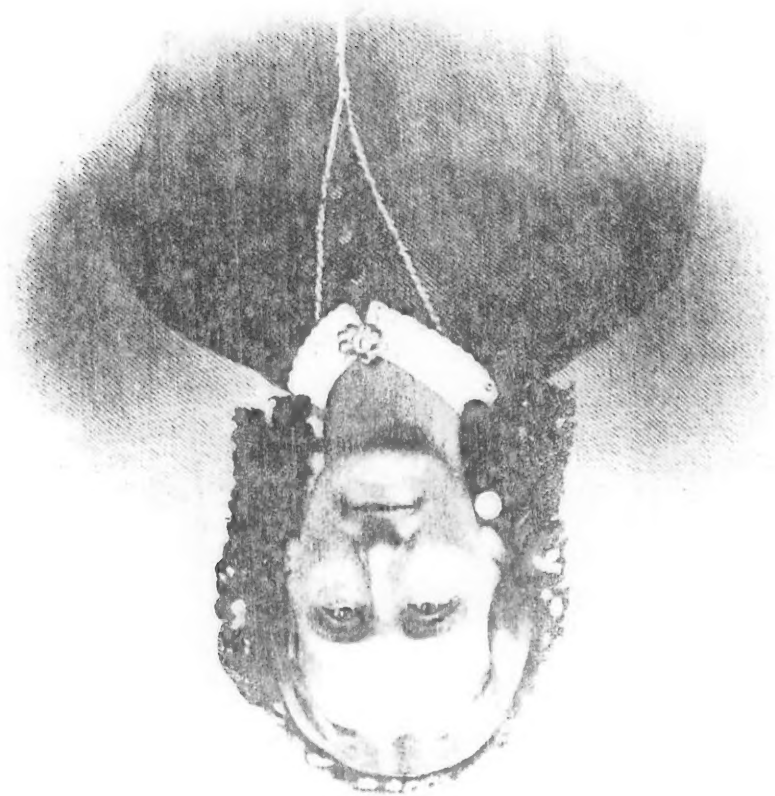
Kimball

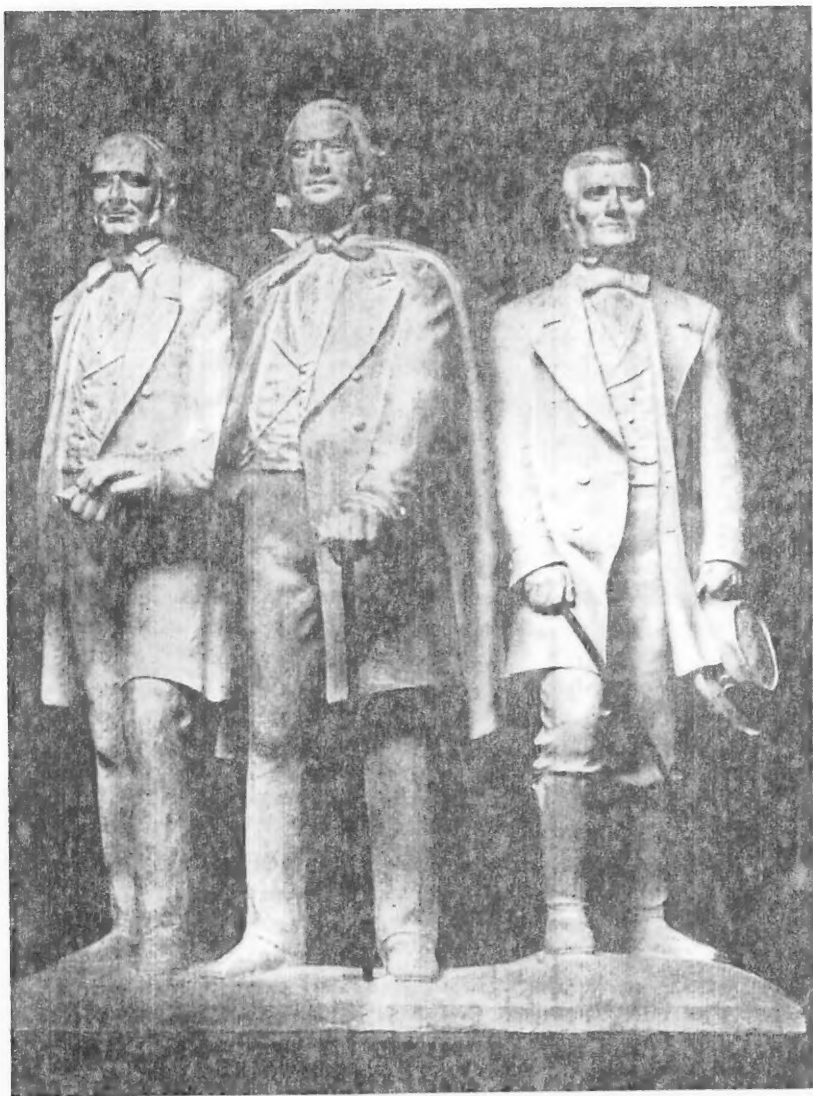
FAMILY COAT-OF-ARMS

HEBER C. KIMBALL



VLADIMIR KIRILLOV





*Heber C. Kimball, Brigham Young and Wilford Woodruff
(left to right) atop the "This Is the Place" Monument at
the mouth of Emigration Canyon.*



Home of Heber C. Kimball on North Main Street, Salt Lake City



HEBER C. KIMBALL
From a photo taken in 1867.

APPENDIX

I

ANCESTRY OF HEBER CHASE KIMBALL.

(The following is from the pen of Solomon F. Kimball, son of Heber C. and Vilate Kimball.)

Soon after Heber C. Kimball joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, his father's family became so embittered towards him, on that account, that he was unable to secure from them anything that would lead to the discovery of his ancestry, placing him in the humiliating position of not even knowing the name of his grandfather. He was so disturbed in his mind over this condition of things that he could hardly contain himself. This was especially so after the Prophet Joseph Smith's inspired address on vicarious work for the dead had been given.

As soon as the Nauvoo Temple was completed he officiated in that holy edifice for seven of his deceased relatives, including his parents, but at this point the work for his kindred dead ceased for want of more names.

In 1853, he employed a genealogist by the name of Kane to visit his relatives in the East for the purpose of obtaining records that would enable him to learn of his grandfather, and then to continue the search along ancestral lines as far back as possible.

In the course of a year, Mr. Kane reported to President Kimball that he was unable to get access to his father's family Bible, in possession of his sister Eliza, consequently he received no aid from that source. However, he had come into possession of other material which, he claimed, proved that the Kimball

family were of Scotch descent, and that their ancient name was Campbell instead of Kimball. President Kimball, having implicit confidence in Mr. Kane's genealogical ability, joyfully accepted his report, and the Scottish idea of Campbell prevailed among the Kimball family of Utah for more than forty years afterwards, when this theory was proved untrue.

It is interesting to note how the minds of men outside of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are moved upon by unseen powers, and unwittingly made to assist those who are trying to observe the commandment to seek after and do work for the dead. In 1887 (nineteen years after President Kimball's death) a glorious spirit seemed to permeate the minds of the whole family, stirring them to action. That same year not less than four hundred of his descendants gathered at Fuller's Hill Gardens, in Salt Lake City, and such a time of rejoicing as was experienced on that occasion is seldom witnessed. Those present were inspired by unseen powers, and they partook of the prophet's declaration:

"Glad tidings for the dead; a voice of gladness for the living and the dead; glad tidings of great joy. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that bring glad tidings of good things; and that say unto Zion, behold! thy God reigneth. As the dews of Carmel, so shall the knowledge of God descend upon them."

Strange to say, the same year that the Kimball family met at Fuller's Hill Gardens, Professor L. A. Morrison, of Windham, New Hampshire, whose mother was a Kimball, and Professor S. P. Sharples of Boston, Mass., whose wife was a Kimball, at about the same time and unknown to each other, both commenced work on a genealogical history of the Kimball family of America. Both of these expert genealogists continued their labors for seven years before they became acquainted with each other. After that they became co-workers and co-editors for three more years, when they had completed one of the most perfect genealogical works published up to that time in the United States. It contains 1,278 pages, and the names of 17,000 of Heber C. Kimball's ancestors. They made the remarkable discovery that all of the Kimballs of America were descendants of two brothers, Richard and Henry, who came from Rattlesden,

Suffolk County, England, to America, in 1634, on the ship "Elizabeth." They visited the old Kimball homes in that part of England and traced the family name back for 500 years. The wealthy Kimballs of the United States furnished the means to carry this enterprise through, amounting to thousands of dollars.

Another remarkable coincident in connection with this genealogical question was that just previous to the coming forth of the Sharples-Morrison publication, several representative members of the Kimball family of Utah were moved upon by the spirit of the Lord to employ Brother B. F. Cummings, of Salt Lake City, to ascertain, if possible, some facts about Heber C. Kimball's grandfather. After some time had been spent by Brother Cummings in this direction, he made the following report:

"I have discovered that James Kimball of Bradford, Mass., is the grandfather of Heber C. Kimball, and he was born at the above mentioned place, November 8th, 1736. He moved from there to Hopkinton, New Hampshire, and while living there, married a young lady whose given name was Meribah. In 1796, with a family of eleven children, he moved to Sheldon, Franklin County, Vermont, where he lived the remainder of his days. His children's names are Elizabeth, John, Rhoda, Dorothy, Solomon, Betty, James, Moses, Stephen, Cornelia and Jessie."

Brother Cummings made this important discovery just in time to get these facts printed in their proper place in the Sharples-Morrison History, including a full-page portrait of President Kimball and a short sketch of his life.

Soon after this genealogical history was published, Hon. G. F. Kimball, of Topeka, Kan., commenced the publication of "The Kimball Family News," a monthly periodical of considerable importance. Each month Professors Morrison and Sharples furnished for this journal long lists of names, which showed the number of President Kimball's ancestors to be upwards of 20,000. All of these that were eligible have been baptized for, and upwards of 1,000 males and nearly all of the females have been endowed.

The spiritual-minded members of the Kimball family of this intermountain region believe that their illustrious father, Heber Chase Kimball, had much to do with the coming forth of the genealogical history of the Kimball family of America, and all rejoice in the following inspired expressions of the Prophet Joseph:

“Let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Emmanuel, who hath ordained before the world was, that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prison; for the prisoner shall go free.”

II

THE KIMBALLS CAME FROM ENGLAND



*Summarized by Spencer W. Kimball, grandson of
Heber C. Kimball and Ann Alice Gheen*

It is evident from wills made early in the sixteenth century that the name was spelled at that time "Kymbolde" or "Kymbold" or "Kembolde." Note the beginning of this will: "I, Henry Kymbolde of Hechem in ye county of Suff." Before the emigration to America the spelling had been changed largely to Kimball and very soon after they arrived in America the family of Richard changed it to Kimball, though the descendants of Henry Kimball, possibly a brother, maintained the "e" until the beginning of the 19th century.

The common ancestor of the great majority of Kimballs in this country was Richard Kimball. From the best evidence available at this time it seems that Richard's ancestry is as follows:

1. Thomas Kembold Sr., of Hitcham.
2. Thomas Kembold Jr., of Hitcham.
3. John Kembold, of Hitcham.
4. Henry Kembold, of Hitcham, married Marion.....
5. Henry Kembold Jr., of Hitcham, married Cecelia.....
6. Henry Kembold of Brettenham married Margaret Mun-
ning.
7. Henry Kimball of Rattlesden married Johan.....
8. Richard Kimball of Rattlesden married Ursula Scott.

This Richard embarked with his family at Ipswich, Suffolk County, England, April 10th, 1634, in the ship "Elizabeth," William Andrews, master. After braving the dangers of the ocean voyage, he arrived in Boston harbor. He had left the ties and

comforts of the old world to find for himself and children a land of promise, a land of religious and political liberty. They were of that Puritan stock who suffered much from the persecution heaped upon them by the religious bigots of England of that day, and they and their descendants have helped materially in building up the New England, the rival of the old England and the mother of the great West. They were a people who need only be convinced that it was right and they would dare and do that right.

James I of England, after a feeble reign, had expired March 27, 1625, and his son, the ill-starred Charles I, had succeeded him. Charles dissolved the last of three Parliaments and for eleven years attempted to rule England with absolute power. He attempted to force his subjects to worship by Episcopal rule. He was so vigilant that in all the kingdom every corner was subjected to the most minute inspection and every band of Puritans or Separatists was broken up, and even private home worship did not escape the vigilance of the spies. This naturally led the oppressed people to look for a new home elsewhere, a place where they could worship God according to the dictates of their own consciences. In this continued exodus from England there were many influential people who came to the new world. Among this class was the sturdy Richard Kimball, who was a wheelwright by trade and who was in such demand that he was given a "house-lot" and other privileges to consent to become the town wheelwright.

RICHARD KIMBALL. Richard came to America in 1634, landing in Massachusetts. Later he moved to Watertown, and the lot he was given was situated on the corner of what became Huron Ave. and Appleton St., in Cambridge. He was proclaimed freeman in 1635, May 6th; a proprietor in 1636-7. In 1637 he was persuaded to move to Ipswich as the town wheelwright, for which he was given a "house-lot" Feb. 23, 1637, next adjoining Goodwin Simons at the west end of the town. He was also granted at the same time "40 acres beyond the North Riuer, near the land of Robert Scott." In 1639 he had the liberty to pasture "two cows free." On "the last day of the last month, 1641," he is mentioned as "Among the Commoners of Ipswich." He was appointed one of the seven men March 1, 1645. "On the 22d

THE KIMBALLS CAME FROM ENGLAND

day of the tenth mo. 1647 he was allowed two Pounds for Killing two foxes." He contributed toward the estate of John Cross; In 1653 he was one of a committee of three to survey the fences in the common fields north of the river. In Rattlesden, his early home, he married Ursula Scott and married, second, October 23rd, 1661, Margaret Dow, widow of Henry Dow of Hampton, N. H. He had eleven children, as follows: Abigail, Henry, Elizabeth, Richard, Mary, Martha, John, Thomas, Sarah, *Benjamin*, and Caleb. An extract of the will of Richard follows: "The last will and Testament of Richard Kimball sen, of Ipswich in Essex in New England who although weake in body yet perfect in memory doe dispose of my lands & estate in manner & form as followeth: To my Loveinge wife my will is that she shall dwell in my house and have the Improvement of my ground and meadow belonging thereto with the use and increase of my whole stock of cattle, one whole yeare after my decease, and then at the years end, the forty pound due to her according to contract at marriage to be payed her and that hous-hold stuff she brought with her. And to have liberty to live in the parlor end of the house, the rooms we now lodge in: and liberty for her necessary vse of some part of sellar: also the liberty of one cow in pasture, the executors to provide meate for the same, and to have a quarter part of fruit from the orchard and fire-wood as long as she lives ther. And if she desire to remove to her owne house, then to be sett in it with what she have by my executors and to be also allowed forty shillings yearly as long as shee lives." To the children he divided his property. He died March 1, 1676. He was well-to-do for those early times, his inventory at death showing 737 pounds 3s 6d.

BENJAMIN KIMBALL (son of Richard) was born in 1637, about the time his father moved from Watertown, Mass., to Ipswich, Mass. Little is known of his childhood. He married Mercy Hazeltine, April, 1661, in Salisbury, Mass. She was one of the first members of the Church admitted in Bradford. They had eleven children, as follows: Anna, Mervy, Richard, Elizabeth, *David*, Jonathon, Robert, Abraham, Samuel, Ebenezer, and Abigail. Benjamin was one of the first overseers of the town of Bradford. He was coronet of horse troops and was called "Cornet Kimball." He and his brother Richard were soldiers under

Capt. Appleton. He was a wheelwright and farmer. He died June 11, 1695. His estate totaled 1060 pounds 7s, which was considerable for those times. He owned a quarter interest in a sawmill. The graves of Benjamin and Mercy Kimball were in the little cemetery of Bradford, Mass.

DAVID KIMBALL (son of Benjamin, son of Richard) was born in Bradford, Mass., July 26, 1671, where he resided. He received from his father's estate "six acres of land where his house standeth." He married Elizabeth Gage and he married, second, about 1717, Ruth ———. The children were 12 in number and named: Hannah, Samuel, Hannah, David, Rebecca, a son unnamed, *Jeremiah*, Aaron, Elizabeth, Abraham, Ruth, Abigail. He died June 14, 1743.

JEREMIAH KIMBALL (son of David, son of Benjamin, son of Richard, who came to America in 1634) was born in Bradford, Mass., Oct. 15, 1707, where he resided most of his life and where his 14 children were born to him and his wife Elizabeth Head, whom he married Jan. 20, 1732: Elizabeth, Sarah, Jeremiah, *James*, Reuben, David, John, Betty, Mary, Moses, Sarah, Abraham, Phebe, Richard. Later the family moved to Hopkinton, N. H., and later to Warner, N. H., where he died in May, 1764, and was buried at the old fort on Putney's hill.

JAMES KIMBALL (son of Jeremiah, son of David, son of Benjamin, son of Richard who came to America in 1634) was born in Bradford, Mass., Nov. 8, 1736. Little else is known of him, except that he moved with his father's family to Hopkinton, N. H.; that he married Meribah — —, and the following 11 children were born. There is no date known of his death. The children: Elizabeth, John, Rhoda, Dorothy, Betty, *Solomon Farnham*, James, Moses, Stephen, Cornelia, and Jesse.

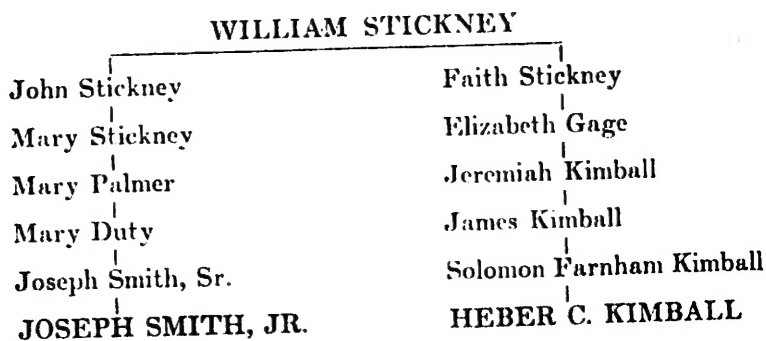
SOLOMON FARNHAM KIMBALL (son of James, son of Jeremiah, son of David, son of Benjamin, son of Richard who came to America in 1634) was born in Hopkinton, N. H., 1770. Little is known of his early life. He was a blacksmith and farmer by trade. He married Anna Spaulding. His children were all probably born in Sheldon, Vermont. He moved from Hopkinton, N. H., to Sheldon, Vt., to Bloomfield, N. Y., to Mendon, N. Y. During the War of 1812 he lost all of his property. He died at Mendon, July 9, 1825, and with his wife is buried there. He had

seven children, as follows: Charles Spaulding, Eliza, Abigail, *Heber Chase*, Melvina, Solomon F., and Daniel.

Heber Chase Kimball (son of Solomon Farnham Kimball, son of James, son of Jeremiah, son of David, son of Benjamin, son of Richard, who came to America in 1634,) is the subject of this book. It is estimated that he has a posterity in excess of 2,500 souls as this book goes to press in its second edition.

III RELATIONSHIPS

It will be interesting to note that Heber C. Kimball was a fifth cousin to the Prophet Joseph Smith:



Heber C. Kimball and President Grover Cleveland were cousins:

